



**For immediate release
January 15, 2008**

**Contact: Wendy Fox
617-626-1453**

OPEN BURNING SEASON BEGINS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Residents required to obtain local permit

The Department of Conservation and Recreation today announced that the season for open burning will begin today, January 15, and run through May 1. Property owners must obtain a valid permit from their local fire department or fire warden before conducting any open burning.

Burning must be conducted on land near the location of the materials to be burned, and at least 75 feet from a dwelling. Permits allow the burning of brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris, but prohibit the burning of grass, hay, leaves, or tires.

Those conducting open burns are encouraged to keep fire-suppression tools – such as a water hose, shovel, or other firefighting implements – handy and monitor the burn closely until it is dead out. If the burn appears to be expanding beyond the planned area, take action to put it out immediately. If you can't suppress it, call the local fire department.

Each year, fires started by permitted burns accidentally burn thousands of acres and cost taxpayers thousands of dollars to suppress. These blazes can cause environmental damage and threaten or damage homes, recreation facilities, and unnecessarily encumber local and state firefighting resources.

For more information on open burning regulations and permitting, go to www.mass.gov/dcr and click on "conservation," then "forest fire control" or go straight to www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/firecont/index.htm.

###

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation